

**CITY OF LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
LONG BEACH SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION**

MINUTES

March 18, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Higginson, Chair, called the meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission to order at 9:03 a.m., at Silverado Community Center.

II. FLAG SALUTE –

III. ROLL CALL / WELCOME OF GUESTS

The following Commissioners responded to roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Patricia Bergendahl, 6th District
Barbara Bolin, 9th District
Rose Cabanban, 7th District
Betty Davenport, 5th District
Florence Dodge, 3rd District
Teodoro Felix, 1st District
Harold Goetz, 5th District
Rabbi Sidney Guthman, 3rd District

Nancy Higginson, 3rd District
Candido Manal, 7th District
Teresa Munoz, 2nd District - Excused
Debra Teofilo, 3rd District - Excused
Lu Wall, 3rd District
Robert Wenke, 3rd District
Berry Yolken, 3rd District

Staff

Belem Solis, Superintendent
Shelley Hellen, Community Services Supervisor
Sherri Nixon, Community Services Supervisor
Eileen Ludlam, Recreation Assistant
Fred Towns, Recreation Assistant

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 19, 2004

The February 19, 2004 Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Minutes were approved as mailed.

V. GUEST SPEAKER (S)

Theresa Marino and Teresa Ishikawa of the Long Beach Health Department spoke to the Commission regarding the “Long Beach Strategic Plan for Older Adults” by reading each component of the document and answering questions on each subject of the plan. Ms. Marino and Ms. Ishikawa distributed a synopsis of the “Strategic Plan” and a copy of “Phases of the Strategic Process” to the Commissioners. Ms. Marino also hopes to present a draft of the plan to the Long Beach Strategic Plan for Older Adults Task Force.

Commissioner Yolken was designated to edit the Long Beach Strategic Plan for Older Adults and after Commissioner Yolken has edited the plan, a small committee will be chosen as advocates of the plan to work with council members.

Commissioner Davenport asked, "Why was there no mention of the word volunteer in the synopsis under the 'Quality of Life' section of the plan."

Commissioners Dodge and Bergendahl concurred with Commissioner Davenport in regards to Volunteers.

Ms. Marino responded with, "The word volunteer is under the 'Quality of Life' section which has 17 steps in the original Strategic Plan."

VI. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A Silverado Park participant asked the Commission, "How to intervene when senior elders still drive and are having accidents?"

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. The Commission directed the secretary to send a "thank you" letter to Theresa Marino and Teresa Ishikawa of the Health Department thanking them for their informative presentation.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Legislation – Commissioner Teresa Munoz

The Legislation Committee had nothing to report.

- B. Transportation – Commissioner Nancy Higginson

Commissioner Higginson informed the Commission, that the Los Angeles Metro System has All-Day passes available to seniors for \$ 1.50.

- C. Health Care – Commissioner Debra Teofilo

Faxed correspondence on Facts about Medicare and Approved Discounts was distributed to Commissioners.

- D. Housing – Commissioner Teodoro Felix

Commissioner Felix read an article as published in the Press Telegram entitled "Affordable Housing – Re-zoning to Bring Down Prices." The article spoke of how re-zoning could bring down the prices of homes in Long Beach.

Commissioner Wall informed the Commission, as of April 5, the Legal Aid Foundation would have a Housing Attorney who specializes in evictions.

Commissioner Bergendahl informed the Commission, that the Housing Development Company (HDC) would give tours of affordable housing sites.

E. Safety and Crime Prevention – Commissioner Patricia Bergendahl

Commissioner Bergendahl attended the Long Beach Police Department, Leadership Forum. A presentation on graffiti was held and officers spoke of the growing problems in the community. The Long Beach Police Department will also give presentations on graffiti to various groups and organizations.

Commissioner Bergendahl distributed the Long Beach Police Department's, Crime Watch News, in which she referred to the articles on the M-26 Taser - Lethal Device, Graffiti, and the Long Beach Robbery Detail. Commissioner Bergendahl also distributed articles from the Press Telegram on "Partners on Crime," which discussed how participants are hoping to curb crime and gang violence and "Stunning New Option" which discussed how taser guns would subdue dangerous people.

F. Quality of Life and Leisure – Commissioner Florence Dodge

Commissioner Dodge reported on the Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine's spring activities in the Quarterly Schedule. She informed the Commission that two new classes have been added to the schedule: Yoga for seniors and Drawing & Painting classes at the Long Beach Senior Center. Commissioner Dodge also spoke of Volunteer Opportunities within the City of Long Beach.

Commissioner Davenport informed the Commission that Partners of Parks has free sponsorships for contract classes offered in the Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marines, Quarterly Schedule. Classes will be available to children 2 – 17 years of age. Commissioner Davenport encouraged Commissioners, staff, and grandparents to submit applications.

G. Community Relations – Commissioner Betty Davenport

Commissioner Davenport stated she would have the introductory letter for the Senior Directory by the next meeting. Commissioner Davenport also informed the Commission that Partners of Parks has not purchased the equipment to move forward with Parks, Recreation and Marine's Graphics Department in the development of the Senior Directory.

Commissioner Bergendahl distributed pamphlets on the commemoration of Rotary International's 100th anniversary; the Rotary Club of Long Beach is raising funds for the creation of a new 1.2-acre park in the center of Long Beach.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Senior Briefing – Commissioner Lu wall

Commissioner Wall informed the Commission that response has not been strong from the Candidates running for City Council and recommended that the Commission cancel the "Senior Briefing - Candidates Forum" scheduled for March 25, 2004 Candidates response:

Three - Yes

Four - Unconfirmed w/ response

Four - No response.

Commissioner Bergendahl moved to cancel the "Candidates Forum" and Commissioner Wall seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Wall will send out cancellation letters. Commissioner Wall will notify Reception desk to inform callers that the "Candidates Forum" has been cancelled.

The Commission was informed that there would be a Forum for Council Candidates on Tuesday, March 30, 2004 at the Grand Hotel.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Re-development Project Area Committee (PAC) appointment

Commissioner Higginson moved to nominate Commissioner Bolin to the Re-development Project Area Committee (PAC), Commissioner Wall seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bolin accepted the appointment for the Senior Commission to the West PAC Committee. This Board meets monthly to discuss Re-development Projects in North Long Beach.

XI. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Community Services Supervisor, Shelley Hellen reported on senior activities in the Long Beach Senior Center's Bi-monthly Newsletter.
- B. Recreation Assistant Eileen Ludlam reported on trips, workshops, and new fitness equipment at Houghton Park.
- C. Senior Coordinator, Fred Towns reported on seminars at Silverado, the Easter Hat Parade, Volunteerism, "We Care", and future Holiday dances.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Bergendahl distributed flyers on the following: (1) The Grand Re-opening of the Freeman Police Athletic League on March 26, (2) Identity Theft at El Dorado Park Senior Center on March 30 and (3) Rape Prevention and Self Defense 101- workshops for college bound students and parents at Long Beach City College on April 3.

Commissioner Davenport distributed a flyer on the Police Women' League presentation on alcohol and rape.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The Executive Board meeting of the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2004 at 9:30 a.m., at the Long Beach Senior Center. In attendance will be Commissioners Nancy Higginson, Berry Yolken, Lu Wall, and Rose Cabanban.

The General meeting of the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2004 at 9 a.m., at the Long Beach Senior Center, 1150 E. 4th Street.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Higginson adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.